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Head Teacher: Mr R Adams

South Gosforth First School

*‘Roots to grow and wings to fly’*

Dear Reception to Y3 Parents & Carers

I am just emailing to inform you of a change to lunch provision in September.

Over the lockdown period, in order to maintain social distancing measures, the children have a staggered lunch sitting and take either their packed lunch from home or their school lunch to their own classroom (or 'bubble space') and eat it there. The children are chaperoned by the staff who are working in their bubble, then the used trays are collected by the catering staff and taken back to the school kitchen to be washed.

We were planning to continue this arrangement in September, only on a larger scale with more pupils, as obviously we can't have all of the children in the dining hall together as we usually would at the moment, however unfortunately the local education authority have told us specifically that we are not permitted to continue with this arrangement, as they feel that it is a health and safety risk with so many children carrying trays of warm food back to their classrooms. We did consider having each year group in the dining hall separately, but this simply isn't an option as this would take in excess of 2 hours to complete the lunch sitting for all of the children in school.

Therefore, in light of this, we would have to provide each child on school lunch with a school packed lunch in a bag (sandwiches, fruit, yoghurts, baked items) until further notice, which they would then eat in their classrooms. I can assure you that I fought this as much as I could and contested this decision by the LEA, but unfortunately they aren't budging and would not provide us with insurance if we continued with our current arrangement, therefore we really have no choice. Hopefully, this will only be a temporary measure and we will be able to provide a hot lunch for all of our children again very soon.

In addition to this, I have also had some questions around the children bringing bikes and scooters to school again from September. I am happy to allow the children to bring bikes and scooters, as I think it is a great way for our pupils to get some daily exercise. However, the children must not come in to school on their bike / scooter, but must walk with them down the path when it is their time to enter the playground. The bikes and scooters must be kept throughout the day in the bike / scooter store and the adults on duty at play times and lunch times will ensure that children are not touching each other's equipment.

Best wishes.

Mr Adams

